Mount Wachusett Community College

Spring 2011

Volume 2 • Number 2

CareerFocus™

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Tough But Not Impossible

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Gardner Campus
444 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440
Office hours:
Mon - Thu, 8 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.; Fri, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
(978) 632-6600
Email: admissions@mwcc.mass.edu

Leominster Campus
100 Erdman Way, Leominster, MA 01453
Office hours:
Mon - Thu, 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m., Fri, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
(978) 840-3221
Email: leominster@mwcc.mass.edu

Devens Campus
One Jackson Place
27 Jackson Road, Devens, MA 01434
Mon - Thu, 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m., Fri, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
(978) 630-9569
Email: devens@mwcc.mass.edu

Mount Wachusett Community College

CareerFocus™

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On the Cover:
Nursing student Stephanie Santana with her daughter Adrianna. Stephanie, like many MWCC students, balances being a mom and going to school.

We want your opinions!

Tell us what you think about this spring edition of CareerFocus. Email MWCC at communications@mwcc.mass.edu. We'll enter you in a raffle to win a $25 gift card to Barnes & Noble! Deadline: February 1, 2011

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Mount Wachusett Community College

Feature

Landing a Job In a Recession Is Tough, Though Not Impossible

New report shows promise for associate degree holders

By Janice O'Connor

Thinking about changing careers or just starting out in the workforce? Finding a job during the Great Recession is challenging, but not impossible, especially in fields deemed in-demand.

Report shows promise

According to a new report released by the National Skills Coalition in partnership with Skill*Works* and The Workforce Solutions Group, more than 396,000 "middle-skill" job openings —those that require more than a high school diploma, but less than a four-year degree—are projected for Massachusetts by 2016. About 45 percent of all jobs are classified as middle-skill, but just 32 percent of Massachusetts workers have the credentials to fill them. As the state, along with the rest of the country, moves from recession into recovery, employers will be seeking qualified workers to fill a wide range of positions.

Growing careers

In-demand careers cited in the report, and offered at Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC), include: dental hygiene; nursing; physical therapist assistant; clinical laboratory technician; computer support services; auto mechanics; public safety, including police, fire and emergency medical technicians; paralegal and legal secretaries; and biotechnology. In addition, the report notes that as Massachusetts is in the middle of a "green revolution" since the passage of the 2008 Green Jobs Act, opportunities will expand in top clean technology sectors. The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, created through this legislation, is spearheading efforts to support business and job growth in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Industry trends

Careers for Computer Information Systems (CIS) majors are on the rise, according to the middle-skills report as well as the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. For those short on time, 90 percent of MWCC's CIS associate degree can be completed online. The program prepares students for entry-level positions in information technology fields including: programming, networking, web systems development and software application support, or for transfer to four-year colleges and universities to pursue a bachelor's degree.

"I do see the trend for more jobs in the industry. Even though companies may not be upgrading equipment, you still have to maintain what you have, deal with computer viruses and you still have to train people to use new software," explains Carol Reed, chair of MWCC's CIS department. "When new updates come along, the IT staff provides the support needed to help companies train their employees."

To accelerate the process of preparing for the workforce in this field, students can earn an academic certificate to gain credentials, while

Job Search Opportunities Available For MWCC Students

A message from Patricia Brewerton, Career Development Counselor, MWCC

Mount Wachusett Community College is well respected in the business community, thereby opening doors to opportunities targeted specifically to our students. The career development and placement office is a good place for students to begin their job search for full-time, part-time and temporary positions, as well as cooperative education positions for career-oriented majors.

With one of the most competitive job markets in years, students are advised on competitive cover letter and resume styles, portfolio development, how to prepare for an interview, as well as dress-for-success strategies and interview follow-up skills.

Today it can take multiple interviews to land even a part-time position, so keeping one's perspective and expectations in line with the market demand is critical to a student's success. Having a career counselor walk students through the job search process provides the support needed to persevere during these challenging times.

In addition to general online job searching, students are encouraged to regularly search MWCC's online list of jobs posted by area businesses interested in hiring MWCC students. Students can also find job search tips and online tutorials.

No matter where in the job search process a student may be, they are always welcome to stop in to discuss their options, or drop a line at pbrewerton@mwcc.mass.edu.

MWCC Programs Preparing Students For Jobs Sited For Future Job Growth

As cited in "Middle-Skill" Job Report*

- Automotive Technology Degree and Certificate
- Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing Degree and Certificate
- Clinical Laboratory Science Degree
- Computer Information Systems Degree
- Criminal Justice Degree
- Dental Hygiene Degree
- Emergency Medical Technician (non-degree program)
- IT Support Specialist Certificate
- Law Enforcement Certificate
- Nursing Degree
- Paralegal Degree and Certificate
- Physical Therapist Assistant Degree

**Report released by the National Skills Coalition in partnership with SkillWorks and The Workforce Solutions Group*

"College is the place to be during an economic downturn, because as the economy improves and funding for these high-demand careers comes through, the students will be ready."

applying those college credits toward the associate degree, Reed says.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-2011 edition, job opportunities in many municipal police departments will be favorable for qualified individuals. Employment of police and detective positions is expected to grow 10 percent by 2018.

"At 'The Mount,' the Criminal Justice faculty prides itself on preparing students for tomorrow's jobs in local, state and federal law enforcement, corrections and other criminal justice agencies or for transfer to a four year college," says department chair Reed Hillman, former commander of the Massachusetts State Police.

"While there are some opportunities available to those without a college degree, a degree opens more career doors, and at a higher rate of pay," he says.

Opportunities in healthcare will continue to grow, as baby boomers advance in age and to accommodate new changes in the field.

MWCC alumnus Christopher Brown of Westminster says he was offered a job as a physical therapist assistant before he even graduated with his associate degree in May 2010.

"Mount Wachusett has an excellent reputation in the career field of physical therapy. Employers expect that we've had a good education. They don't just hire you because of who you are, they hire you because of where you went to school as well," Brown says.

"The academic program is rigorous, but it definitely prepares you to work in the field. It's a great job,

and there are openings in Massachusetts and all over the country, so there's plenty of opportunity for traveling if you wish."

Assess your interests and the future

Patricia Brewerton, career development counselor at MWCC, recommends that students and prospective students start their academic venture

off with a career assessment, to best match strengths and interests with a career field.

"College is the place to be during an economic downturn, because as the economy improves and funding for these high-demand careers comes through, the students will be ready," she says. In addition to traditional jobs, it also helps to look into emerging jobs of the future, for example social media strategists, bloggers, energy auditors or green-industry marketers.

"One needs to be aware of these new careers and how to obtain the educational foundation to prepare for them," says Brewerton.

Feature

What's GENDER Got To Do With It?

Your sex doesn't have to determine your career

Probably the best question to ask yourself when you're deciding on a career is "What do I really love to do?" But what if the answer to that question just brings up more questions?

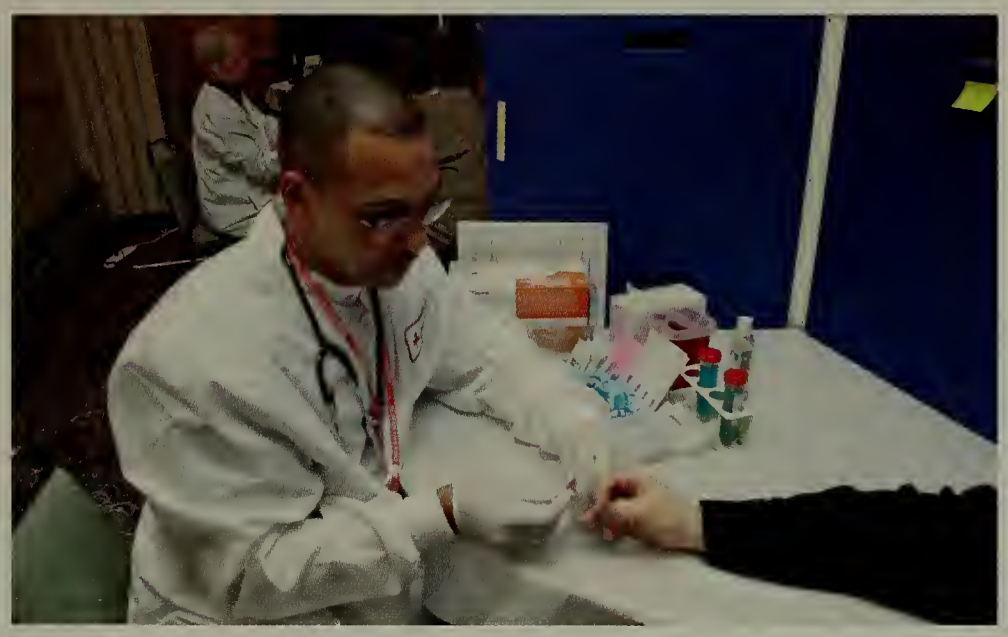
What if your career choice challenges a few stereotypes? What if it requires you to swim against the cultural current?

The men teaching kindergarten and the women on construction sites know how it feels to be one of only a very few in their occupations. It takes a certain amount of courage to choose a career that others feel they have to preface with your sex such as, "male nurse" or "female engineer."

What's the definition of a nontraditional job for either men or women? The U.S. Department of Labor says if fewer than 25 percent of the workers are one sex or the other, it qualifies.

But that definition can change with current convention.

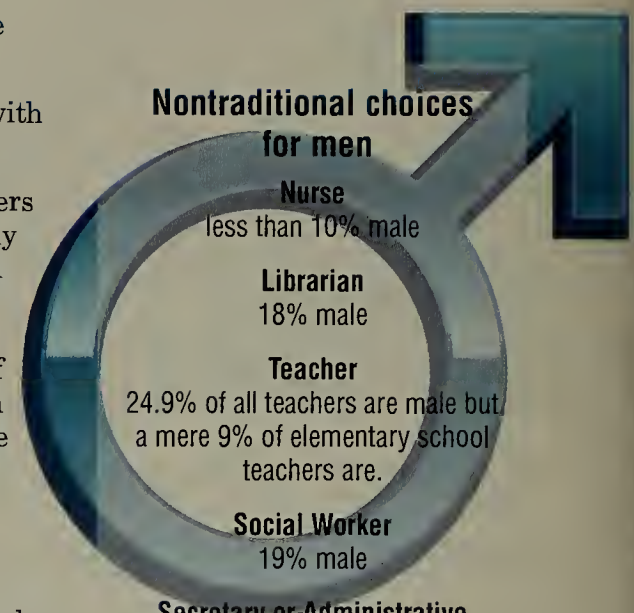
Once we talked about lady lawyers and lady doctors but today nearly half of law students and medical students are female. A century ago most secretaries and teachers were men. And think of the many women who labored in homes and fields without anyone ever saying their work was "too masculine."

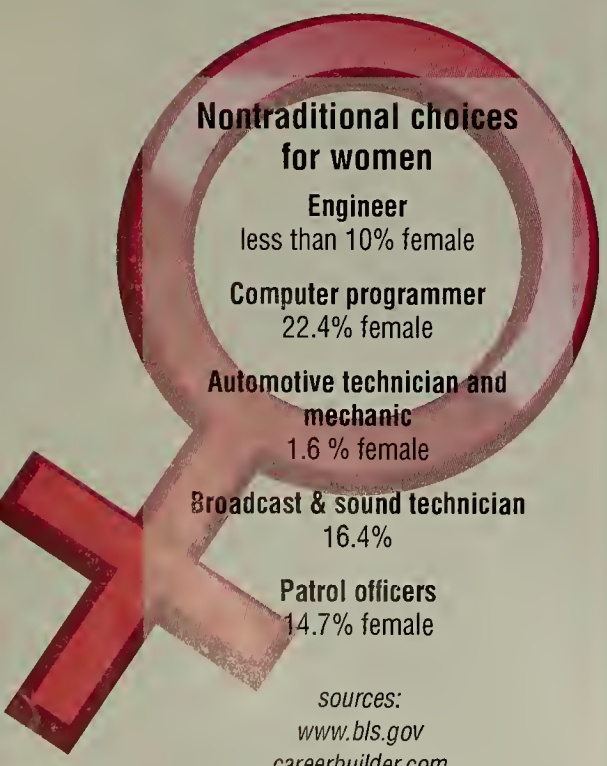


What's right for you?

Patrick O'Shea is a nontraditional career advisor at Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) where he provides information about nontraditional careers and helps students who are interested in pursuing work in a field in which they're a minority. "People should not be held back from their dreams because of their gender. This country is about equality and diversity—it's what we are all about."

O'Shea works with men going into nursing, dental hygiene, allied health and other fields such as preschool and elementary education where women workers outnumber men. The women he works with are studying in programs such





Why Choose a Nontraditional Career?

Talent and skill

First explore your talents and aptitudes before making a career decision and then find out which careers are most likely to use these. The best choice isn't always one that fits a traditional definition of "men's" work or "women's" work.

Pay and opportunities can vary for many jobs with the same skill set. For example, an aptitude for math could lead to a teaching career (a field dominated by women) or engineering (a field dominated by men). A desire to work in health care might lead to a career in nursing or physical therapy, both careers dominated by women, or lead to a career in surgery, a field still more than 50 percent male.

Those in nontraditional fields may find that they are more able to pick and choose job offers from companies eager to recruit men or women to diversify their workplace. Existing societal expectations, such as that woman are more verbal or softer, may be skills that are welcomed by customers and clients in male-dominated fields such as healthcare or sales. While, the need for more male mentors in elementary and high schools may make male teachers appealing hires in many school systems.

A little career exploration might lead you to a job that you'd never even considered but one that turns out to be a perfect fit.

Better pay

The National Network for Women's Employment states that women working in nontraditional fields earn 20 to 30 percent more than those in traditionally female occupations.

For example, the female-dominated careers of hairdressers and cosmetologists pay a median of $17,826 to $31,262 per year while the male-dominated career of police and sheriff's patrol officer pays a median of $38,850 to $64,940 per year.

MWCC Students Defy Gender Stereotypes

as automotive technology, pre-engineering, computer information systems and criminal justice.

"One female student said that she always worked on cars with her father growing up, and this led her to want to pursue a career in automotive technology. Another female student, driven by her desire 'to make the earth a better place,' is enrolled in MWCC's Energy Management program. She hopes to graduate with an associate degree and continue her education in engineering and environmental sciences," says O'Shea. "Another man worked over 15 years in the restaurant business before deciding to pursue his dream of becoming a nurse."

Defying a stereotype or two can result in real career satisfaction but sometimes it is not easy to make that decision. "It takes courage for these students to enter a nontraditional field," says O'Shea. "These students are pioneers in their fields and they're paving the way for others."

"People should not be held back from their dreams because of their gender. This country is about equality and diversity—it's what we are all about."

Find out more about nontraditional careers

Society of Women Engineers, www.swe.org

Men in Child Care, www.meninchildcare.com

American Assembly of Men in Nursing, www.aamn.org

National Association of Women in Construction, www.nawic.org

Samuel Garcia, Early Childhood Education Major

Samuel Garcia, a 22-year-old from Leominster, says the following on choosing a career: "To find out what career path you like, you have to follow your heart. If your heart isn't in it, then you won't like it." Garcia, an Early Childhood Education (ECE) major at MWCC, certainly practiced what he preaches when it came to choosing a career for himself. Garcia, originally a Criminal Justice major at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester, felt that although a career in criminal justice would be worthwhile and rewarding, he needed to focus, not only on his impact on society and those around him, but also on his personal safety and future plans. He found the perfect match as an ECE major—a major, that until quite recently, was predominantly made up of women. Garcia remarks, "I worked at a residential home for children 0 to 12 . . . After working with them for a year, I realized how much I cared

and enjoyed working with them . . . Now I'm able to serve parents and children on a daily basis."

Although he realizes there are some hurdles a male ECE major may have to face upon starting a job (i.e. stereotypes concerning male teachers versus female teachers), he says that the advantages certainly make up for them. "Teaching is a lot of work and requires passion," Garcia asserts. "It is a very rewarding field. You are giving something and getting something in return. It is all worth it at the end of the day, when you see the little ones grow and learn the things you have been teaching them. It is an amazing feeling."

-Caela Provost

Megan Sielicki, Automotive Technology Major

Twenty-year-old Megan Sielicki of Hillsborough, NH certainly is a "Jane" of many trades. Sielicki has dabbled in more athletic, school, and job activities than most young adults her age even think of trying. Although cars have always been her passion (her 2003 Ford Mustang is her pride and joy and she is currently working on rebuilding a 1989 Ford Ranger), she's also an avid horseback rider, hiker, snowmobiler, and snowboarder.

Sielicki, who is currently balancing school, three jobs, and a social life, couldn't be happier with her busy lifestyle. "I have a broad spectrum of knowledge which definitely doesn't hurt in today's world and economy." Sielicki's goal is to earn her associate degree in Automotive Technology and her Certificate in Small Business Management, and she asserts that although there are some disadvantages for women going into her chosen career path, her enthusiasm for the mechanical world will not be stifled. "I would say if you truly love something and don't care about what others may think or say, then you should definitely go for it. I don't regret doing this at all, not even for a second."

Sielicki gives credit to her family and boyfriend for not only allowing her to pursue her career interests, but also being supportive. If there's one thing others should take from Sielicki's story, it's the importance of finding your passion and pursuing what you love. "If you love something, go for it," she says. "Don't let your gender choose your career path, let your heart do that!"

-Caela Provost

Feature

MWCC Medical Office student Yajaira Aldrich with her three children.

MWCC Allied Health student Rick Plourde with his most recent born son.

Going to College as a Parent:

Too much work or one of the best things you can do for your family?

By Nichole Carter

For many parents, the idea of going to college falls behind other priorities like raising children, working, and managing a household. However, while juggling family, work, classes, and getting your homework done certainly is a balancing act, many people do it, and find it to be worthwhile. According to Mount Wachusett Community College's 2007 Community College Survey of Student Engagement, 38 percent of MWCC students have children living in their homes, and a U.S. Department of Education study shows that more and more adults with children under the age of 10 are taking classes.

A benefit for you and your family

Going to college benefits your family in many ways, and at MWCC, you will find a lot of support to do it. "Furthering your education leads to better career opportunities, which benefits the whole family," says Deirdre Moran, career counselor. "Also, when parents go to college, they demonstrate important skills to their children, like goal setting, time management, and setting limits. These are lessons children will benefit from for the rest of their lives."

MWCC Nursing student Stephanie Santana with her three-year-old daughter.

Many parents might find that doing homework together sets a great example for children. "I don't just tell my children to do well in school, I do it, too. I work. I do homework. I am doing all the things I tell them to do. I back up my words with my actions and I think that is good for them to see," says Yajaira Aldrich, Medical Office Certificate student and mother of three who began attending MWCC after being laid-off. "My children are going to see how going to college results in a better job for me, and a better life for the whole family. This is a great lesson for them to learn."

Stephanie Santana, Nursing student and mother of a three-year-old daughter says, "Once I graduate, going to college will have been the best thing that I could have done for my family. I could have easily worked a 40 hour-a-week job to take care of my family, but that would not have given me the lifestyle and security of having a degree."

Getting started

According to Moran, the first step to returning to college is to write down your academic and career goals, "Be realistic about what you can reasonably handle and realize that because of your many

"When parents go to college, they demonstrate important skills to their children, like goal setting, time management, and setting limits. These are lessons children will benefit from for the rest of their lives."

responsibilities, it will probably take you longer to complete your degree." Part of your planning should include finances, childcare, and identifying any and all additional support from family and friends. "Get it all on paper and tackle each issue one at a time." Once you apply and are accepted to college, request an advisor skilled at counseling student parents."

Education where and when you want it

Now for fitting it in . . . MWCC strives to offer courses that fit the lives of busy students. Courses are offered at multiple campuses day, evening, and online. Many parents like the convenience of online courses, which allow them to be home with their kids while cutting out transportation time and any expense associated with commuting. "I have appreciated the flexibility of the online classes," says Aldrich. "I could take those classes without worrying about finding childcare." Through online learning, parents can take part in class when their children go to bed, on their lunch breaks, or whenever it's convenient for them.

And what about childcare?

Many parents use a mix of paid childcare, friends, and family to care for their children. Aldrich explains that while she is in class or work, her children are in school, daycare, or with a family member.

"I wouldn't be able to do what I am doing without a great supporting cast," says Allied Health student and father of three Rick Plourde. "My wife works full-time as a nurse on the weekends and watches the kids while I am in school. I sometimes rely on my parents to watch the kids on the weekends."

Support is available through MWCC as well. For those receiving a Pell grant, financial assistance is available through a CCAMPIS grant (Child Care Access Means Parents in School). Childcare subsidies range from 20, 40, or 60 percent, depending on your expected family contribution. This is a federal grant authorized by the Higher Education Act and administered by the U.S. Department of Education.

For those with children ages 2.9 to 5, Montachusett Opportunity Council Child Care and Head Start Services offers an on-site preschool program available to MWCC students at the Gardner Campus. Additionally, childcare funding is available to students through the James Garrison Childcare Stipend, made possible by chair of the MWCC Board of Trustees James Garrison.

"My children are going to see how going to college results in a better job for me, and a better life for the whole family. This is a great lesson for them to learn."

The CCAMPIS program has made my life a lot easier," says Santana whose daughter is enrolled at the James Garrison Childcare Center right on campus. "This year, I feel so relieved that I can bring her to school every day and not be burdened with the costs of childcare. Between the CCAMPIS program and the Garrison funding, my daughter is able to attend school for free. She has been home with family the past three years and now she can have interaction with other kids in school."

Also, for those who like to workout, a nursery is available in the college's fitness center for children six months and over while their parents are in the center.

Support

Not only are childcare grants and facilities available on campus, but many other academic and support systems as well. Moran suggests that students go to the Academic Support Center early and often if they need tutoring. They can meet with career and transfer counselors to create their academic and career plans, as well as the job shadowing coordinator to provide them with a job shadowing opportunity. There are also several clubs and activities on campus. Research indicates that students who feel connected to their college community, even if they are part-time, are often more successful.

Assistance in dealing with the many challenges of being a parent in college is always available. "I am grateful to college staff for everything they have done," says Aldrich. "When I have had an issue, staff at MWCC has always been able to help me find a solution, like connecting me with the CCAMPIS grant to subsidize childcare, and helping me to attain a workstudy job, where I work in a college office as part of my financial aid package."

Advice

When asked if they would suggest going to college for other parents, Aldrich says, "Absolutely. It has been the best experience of my life." In terms of how to handle the day-to-day, Aldrich advises, "Keep a planner and make lists for everything, whether it is noting when a bill is due or when the next dental appointment is."

"Do it," says Santana."It not only is going to better your life, but also your familys' lives. Some sacrifices have to be made, but the outcome is worth it. If I wasn't attending college, I would not be doing everything I could for my daughter."

"It's a matter of prioritizing and balancing," says Plourde. "Sometimes I have to decide between the household chores and my homework. However, I have a chance to better things for my family and that's the priority right now."

MWCC Board of Trustees Chair James Garrison established a $1 million scholarship fund for Early Childhood Education majors as well as childcare stipends for MWCC students whose children attend the James Garrison Early Childhood Education Center.

Feature

Which Career is Right for You?

Take this informal checklist to explore your career interests

Under each interest area, check all boxes that align with your interests. The Career Directions checklist is an informal inventory to help you reflect on your interests and be able to talk about them. Check as many items as you wish. Then list three to four areas that have the most check marks, and list a few jobs that you would like to learn more about.

Interest 1: Artistic

Do you enjoy?:

- ☐ Drawing, painting, and other visual arts?
- ☐ Music or dance?
- ☐ Fashion design?
- ☐ Decorating?
- ☐ Writing stories or poetry?
- ☐ Doing crafts?
- ☐ Filmmaking?
- ☐ Using a computer for drawing and designing?

Interest 2: Scientific

Do you enjoy?:

- ☐ Doing experiments to see how things work?
- ☐ Learning about nutrition and health?
- ☐ Reading about technical developments?
- ☐ Using math to solve real-life problems?
- ☐ Collecting and identifying rocks, shells, flowers, or other things found in nature?
- ☐ Studying a scientific topic like weather, agriculture, or chemistry?

Interest 3: Plants and Animals

Do you enjoy?:

- ☐ Gardening?
- ☐ Landscaping?
- ☐ Analyzing soil, erosion, or environmental conditions?
- ☐ Caring for pets or farm animals?
- ☐ Training dogs, horses, or other animals?
- ☐ Reading and learning about nature?
- ☐ Working outdoors?

Interest 4: Protective

Do you enjoy?

- ☐ Teaching others about safety?
- ☐ Enforcing rules and laws?
- ☐ Coming to the aid of people who are in trouble?
- ☐ Resolving problems and disputes?
- ☐ Gathering facts about an incident?
- ☐ Being a role model for younger people?
- ☐ Working with the public?

Interest 5: Technical and Mechanical

Do you enjoy?:

- ☐ Sketching out design ideas?
- ☐ Designing and building machines?
- ☐ Setting up a computer or sound system?
- ☐ Troubleshooting computer hardware problems?
- ☐ Taking things apart to see how they work?
- ☐ Woodworking and carpentry?
- ☐ Driving or repairing cars and trucks?
- ☐ Building models?

Interest 6: Industrial

Do you enjoy?:

- ☐ Working with your hands, tools, and equipment?
- ☐ Doing projects that have concrete, visible results?
- ☐ Doing crafts or sewing?
- ☐ Building or assembling products?
- ☐ Helping friends to move into a new home?
- ☐ Working with others to pack boxes, collate papers, or get materials ready for an event?
- ☐ Working with others to make a product?

Interest 7: Business Detail

Do you enjoy?:

- ☐ Managing financial information?
- ☐ Managing the details for a special event?
- ☐ Helping others to organize their time?
- ☐ Organizing papers or materials?
- ☐ Learning to use new computer software?
- ☐ Using a computer to store addresses, telephone numbers, or other information?

Interest 8: Selling

Do you enjoy?:

- ☐ Finding out about the latest products?
- ☐ Reading about fashions and trends?
- ☐ Advising people about what to buy?
- ☐ Listening to people to see what they need?
- ☐ Negotiating with others?
- ☐ Calculating prices or fees?
- ☐ Promoting a product or idea?

Interest 9: Customer Service

Do you enjoy?:

- ☐ Making people feel comfortable?
- ☐ Helping guests or out-of-town visitors?
- ☐ Selling tickets or ushering at a special event?
- ☐ Volunteering to help at a fund-raising dinner?
- ☐ Working pleasantly with all kinds of people?
- ☐ Providing direct services, such as hair care or restaurant service?

Interest 10: Humanitarian

Do you enjoy?:

- ☐ Talking with people about their family or personal problems?
- ☐ Learning about social issues?
- ☐ Helping people who have medical problems?
- ☐ Helping people who have disabilities to learn new skills?
- ☐ Teaching or advising others?
- ☐ Taking care of children?

Interest 11: Leadership

Do you enjoy?:

- ☐ Teaching or tutoring others?
- ☐ Doing research projects for school?
- ☐ Reading about law or court cases?
- ☐ Managing a club, an event, or a campaign?
- ☐ Holding leadership positions?
- ☐ Writing articles, advertisements, or reports?

Interest 12: Sports and Physical Performance

Do you enjoy?:

- ☐ Playing sports?
- ☐ Outdoor adventures?
- ☐ Learning the rules of a game?
- ☐ Being a referee or umpire?
- ☐ Engaging in competition?
- ☐ Coaching others?

About the Interest Areas

Artistic

Interest 1: Includes creative jobs in the arts, dance, music, drama, creative writing, and more, including both the fine arts and commercial work. **Sample jobs include:** advertising copywriter, art teacher, computer graphic artist, dance teacher, industrial designer, interior designer, multimedia software developer, photographer, video producer, writer/editor

Corresponding MWCC programs: *Art, Broadcasting & Electronic Media, Communications Concentration,* Computer Graphic Design (print or web), Liberal Arts, Liberal Studies, Professional Photography, and Theatre Arts Concentration**

Scientific

Interest 2: Includes research, teaching, and professional jobs in science and medicine. **Sample jobs include:** medical researcher, biotech researcher, laboratory technician, botanist, meteorologist, nutritionist, geologist, environmental analyst, medical professional, statistician, science teacher, educational coordinator for science program or museum

Corresponding MWCC programs: *Allied Health, Biotechnology / Biomanufacturing, Clinical Lab Science, Complementary Health Care, Dental Hygiene, Energy Management, Fitness Leadership & Exercise Science Concentration,* Medical Assisting, Natural Resources, Nursing, Physical Therapist Assistant, and Pre-engineering Concentration**

Plants and Animals

Interest 3: Includes jobs working with plants and animals, usually outdoors. **Sample jobs include:** manager or worker on a farm or in nurseries, garden centers, zoos, nature centers, or aquariums; veterinarian; dog trainer; plant breeder; soil conservationist; landscaper; agricultural extension worker; environmental services field chemist

Corresponding MWCC programs: *Energy Management and Natural Resources*

Protective

Interest 4: Includes jobs in law enforcement, fire fighting, security, and related jobs. **Sample jobs include:** police officer, firefighter, security manager, security guard, investigator, corrections officer, park superintendent, police academy instructor, community policing manager

Corresponding MWCC programs: *Criminal Justice (corrections or law enforcement), EMT, Fire Science*

Technical & Mechanical

Interest 5: Includes jobs designing, building and maintaining computers, office machines, industrial equipment, buildings, and more. **Sample jobs include:** architect, drafter/computer aided design, mechanic, engineer, computer systems analyst, computer technician, engineering technicians, construction trades

Corresponding MWCC programs: *Automotive Technology, Broadcasting & Electronic Media, Computer Information Systems, IT Support Specialist, Manufacturing Technology—Plastics, and Pre-engineering Track**

Industrial

Interest 6: Includes jobs producing, packaging, shipping and receiving goods. **Sample jobs include:** assembler, baker (industrial), packer, order picker, shipper, printer, machine operator, machine set-up, production supervisor, quality control specialist, inventory control specialist, numerical control operator, hazardous waste management technician, environmental services technician

Corresponding MWCC programs: *Manufacturing Technology—Plastics, Energy Management, Natural Resources, Pre-engineering Track**

Business Detail

Interest 7: Includes jobs managing information and providing administrative support. **Sample jobs include:** executive secretary, accounting clerk, receptionist, dispatcher, legal secretary, medical billing clerk, medical records specialist, administrative assistant, survey interviewer, insurance claims representative, database administrator

Corresponding MWCC programs: *Accounting, Business Administration, Medical Assisting, Medical Coding & Billing, Medical Office, Office Assistant, and Paralegal*

Selling

Interest 8: Includes jobs in retail and non-retail sales. Includes jobs that use related skills, such as retail buyers or business purchasing agents. **Sample jobs include:** retail salesperson, sales representative, real estate broker, insurance agent, public relations, retail buyer, purchasing agent, sales engineer, store manager, marketing/ merchandising

Corresponding MWCC programs: *Business Administration, Communications Concentration,* Small Business Management*

Customer Service

Interest 9: Includes jobs working with the public to provide a variety of personal, travel, and tourism, services, and leisure-time activities. **Sample jobs include:** beautician, personal shopper, hotel desk clerk, restaurant manager, waitress/waiter, tour guide, travel agent, bus driver, customer service representative

Corresponding MWCC programs: *Business Administration, Fitness Leadership & Exercise Science Concentration**

Humanitarian

Interest 10: Includes jobs helping people with their personal, physical, emotional and spiritual needs. **Sample jobs include:** social worker, case manager, counselor, family therapist, psychologist, occupational therapist, clergy, youth worker, residential care provider, group home manger, home health aide, child care teacher

Corresponding MWCC programs: *Allied Health, Complementary Health Care, Early Childhood Education, Human Services, Liberal Arts & Sciences, Nurse Assisting, Nursing, Physical Therapist Assistant, and Practical Nursing*

Leadership

Interest 11: Includes a variety of leadership and professional jobs in business, government and social services. **Sample jobs include:** teacher, lawyer, writer/editor, business owner, urban planner, marketing director, management information systems director, accountant, market researcher, social sciences researcher, business administration, social services administration

Corresponding MWCC programs: *Accounting, Business Administration, Communications Concentration,* History & Political Science Concentration,* Human Services, Liberal Arts & Sciences, Paralegal, Small Business Administration*

Sports and Physical Performance

Interest Area 12: Includes jobs teaching, directing and playing sports and active recreational activities. **Sample jobs include:** athlete, coach, physical education teacher, dance instructor, fitness teacher, trainer, sports equipment/ sales, sports club manager, tour guide/outdoor recreation

Corresponding MWCC programs: *Fitness Leadership & Exercise Science Concentration**

Career Directions Checklist SUMMARY

Top 3 or 4 areas that interest me (areas with the most check marks):

1. _____ 3. _____

2. _____ 4. _____

Jobs I would like to know more about: _____

_____

_____

For more information on MWCC programs, go to www.mwcc.edu/programs

Adapted with permission, from the Career Development Toolkit from The Skills Library, http://skillslibrary.com/

**denotes a concentration of an associate degree*

Feature

Fit Careers: So You Want to Help Others Stay Healthy?

Get your start at Mount Wachusett Community College

By Robin Duncan

If you find the field of health and fitness exciting, and think you might like to pursue a career in this growing arena, consider a few things to ensure that your journey is rewarding and successful.

What's your motivation and commitment?

The health and fitness industry is booming. With so many people passionate about fitness and health, and so many people who need help generating their own passion, it's no wonder there's growing interest in fitness careers. "The future looks bright for those willing to go through the training and become educated. It is important to choose the right path for you so that the appropriate time and resources are considered when pursuing an advanced fitness career," says Director of the Fitness & Wellness Center at Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC), Steve Washkevich.

Your interests and the level of training you want to pursue will determine the appropriate match for specific career opportunities. Training for a fitness career can span from a high school diploma for an entry-level job to specialized certification or an advanced degree for administrative positions such as athletic or personal trainer, rehabilitation specialist, exercise physiologist, dietician, sports coach, club director, or physical therapist to name a few.

Some things to consider: do you participate in and enjoy exercise? Are you interested in medicine, rehabilitation, teaching, fitness, or do you enjoy reading health magazines or journals? Have you enjoyed classes such as physical fitness, biology, and health or nutrition? Do you enjoy helping and working with people? It is important that you carefully assess why you want to pursue a career in health and fitness before jumping in—no pun intended!

Get the right education

"If you are working with a diverse population of individuals with advanced challenges, then you should have advanced education and clinical preparation," says Nola Sapienza, department chair and professor of the Fitness Leadership and Exercise Science program at MWCC. Educational preparation programs are available through a variety of academic settings from schools of public health, nursing schools, community colleges, and evidence-based training programs linked to medical programs.

There are also several organizations that provide professional certification and licensures such as the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) and American Council on Exercise (ACE). For personal trainers and group fitness instructors, this type of certification is typically required as a minimum and recertification is every two years, which is usually accomplished by attending continuing education classes. A CPR and first aid certification is required.

Most recommended, however, is a bachelor's or master's degree in exercise science or a related field, and a reputable certification, such as ACSM Exercise Specialist, ACSM Registered Clinical Exercise Physiologist, American Academy of Health, Fitness and Rehabilitation Professionals (AAHFRP) Medical Exercise Specialist or ACE Clinical Exercise Specialist.

MWCC has options for interested individuals to obtain an associate degree concentrating in Fitness Leadership and Exercise Science that can easily transfer to a baccalaureate exercise science program at four year institutions. MWCC's Complementary Health Care—Yoga Teacher Training associate degree program prepares students to become registered yoga teachers. Along with educational courses, the campus houses the largest fitness center in the region—the Fitness & Wellness Center—a 60,000 square foot facility which includes state-of-the-art weight training and cardiovascular equipment; Olympic size pool; over 40 fitness programs; nursery; summer sports camps; three full-size, indoor basketball courts; outdoor tennis courts; basketball courts; track and more.

Gain real-world experience!

Beyond degrees and certifications, don't forget the importance of practical experience. With obesity, diabetes, heart disease, hypertension and other chronic health conditions throughout the United States, demand for disease prevention and cost-effective, quality health-promotion interventions is at an all-time high. More than ever, research shows the benefits of good nutrition and exercise which has contributed to a new, wide-open career path for qualified fitness professionals.

Contemporary fitness and wellness clubs are more comprehensive than the gyms of the past. Gone are the days of the one-size-fits-all weight rooms and the high impact aerobics classes with leg warmers. Today's fitness centers cater to diverse populations with specific needs—programming includes personalized nutrition classes, body composition testing and weight training, massage therapy, personal training, and yoga. These programs are developed for the young, the overweight, the athlete, and the elderly.

Working at a gym or fitness center, coaching a sports team, or obtaining an internship at a hospital, nursing home, or doctor's office can help provide the real world experience and clinical skills needed to excel in a health and fitness career.

Hold a Bachelor's or Master's Degree? Now It May Be Time for an Associate's

Continuing your education need not be a linear path

By Nichole Carter

Currently 150 students enrolled at Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) already hold their bachelor's or master's degree and are now working toward an associate degree or certificate. Surprised? Most people think of community colleges as an entry point for students graduating from high school, or for those with a high school diploma looking to improve their skills or start a career. However, for many, education is not such a linear path. "We've seen people with higher degrees return to MWCC because they were interested in going into business for themselves and needed business skills. Or, they decided their current career wasn't for them, but they always wanted to work in a career serving others, so they entered Nursing or Human Services," says Dr. Melissa Fama, vice president of Academic Affairs at MWCC. "Updating your skills or changing your career path doesn't always mean a *higher* degree or credential—it may just mean a *different* degree or credential."

Getting hands-on

Community colleges are great for those who may be working in a career they love, but want to sharpen their skills in a certain aspect of that field. According to Leslie Cullen, chair of MWCC's graphic design department, students with bachelor's or master's degrees routinely enter the program. "We have had many graphic designers who primarily design in print enter the program because they want to gain web design skills as well. Other students with higher degrees enroll to learn the latest software programs," she says.

This is also true with MWCC's biotechnology program. "Students with bachelor's degrees in biology, chemistry, or other related programs enroll in MWCC's biotechnology program because they are looking to gain hands-on skills to complement their well-rounded background in the sciences and make them more employable," says Lara Dowland, chair of MWCC's biotechnology program.

Community colleges are becoming the new 'graduate colleges' as students with bachelor's and master's degrees enroll. Most are seeking new skills in their current careers, or seeking to change their career all together.

Courtney Coleman of Littleton holds a bachelor's degree in Health Science from Quinnipiac University and decided to enroll in MWCC's Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program following the completion of her degree. "My bachelor's degree is very broad and I needed some focused training to get into a career," she says. Coleman is considering pursuing a physical therapist career in the future. "There isn't a master's degree option in physical therapy and the doctoral programs are extremely competitive, difficult to get into, and intense. I wanted to go to work in the field right away, and this wasn't possible if I pursued becoming a physical therapist right now." Coleman says that having her bachelor's degree has put her at a great advantage in MWCC's PTA program, "My core curriculum transferred in, so I am just taking PTA courses. Plus, the knowledge I came in with has helped me tremendously."

Test drive

Some higher-level degree holders are considering a whole new direction and want to test drive a field first. According to Jim Korman, chair of MWCC's paralegal department, many enroll in paralegal because they are considering law school and want to try out law courses first. "Many of these students never studied law directly. They're wondering 'what is it all about?' They want to put their feet in the water to see if they like it," he says.

Karl Hakkarainen of Holden worked in software development for close to 30 years after earning his bachelor's degree from Amherst College. During that time, he developed an interest in intellectual property law. After leaving the computer field for medical reasons, he decided to attend MWCC to explore law further, "Through my work in the computer field, I had learned a lot about trademarks and patents. It was something that always interested me." Hakkarainen is now enrolled in the Paralegal program and completing a practicum, gaining hands-on experience providing legal information for local nonprofits.

Will he enroll in law school? He's not sure of his future direction, but feels it's worthwhile to invest in his skills and see where it takes him. "One thing I have learned is that information changes constantly and that the future is unpredictable. I have developed the habit of lifelong learning, studying subjects that I feel will develop my thinking skills and help me to adapt to change," says Hakkarainen.

Feature

A Healthcare Career With Regular Hours?

Exploring careers in Medical Assisting, Medical Office, and Medical Coding and Billing

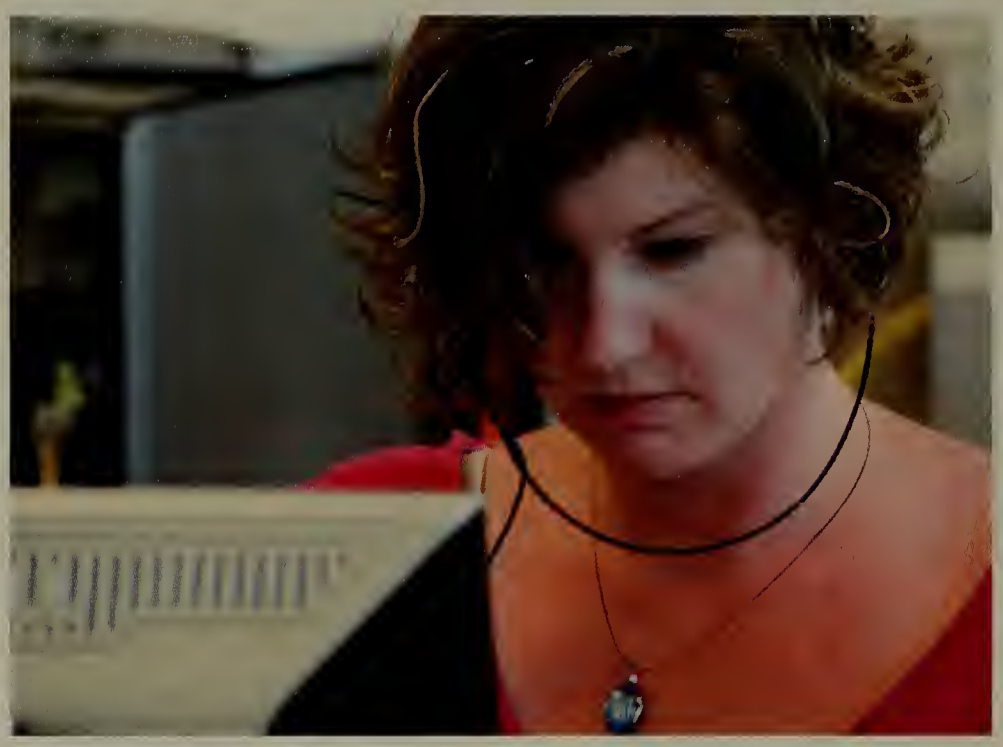
By Robin Duncan

Are you interested in healthcare? Realize your full potential with a medical office career. With the number of healthcare procedures increasing as the population ages, there is a very high demand for skilled specialists in patient information technology, medical assisting, medical office, medical coding and billing. More and more, the unique work of such medical front office careers is becoming an important contribution to the delivery of quality care. It is expected that over the next 20 to 30 years, these careers will remain in high demand.

So what's the scoop?

Basically, the healthcare office environment is divided into two distinct areas:

"Front office" personnel work with patient records, insurance billing, computerized accounting, patient databases, transcription of dictated notes, and applying standardized codes to patient records among other activities.



These jobs usually offer regular hours—something that is rare in the healthcare field.

"Back office" personnel are the care providers including physicians, nursing personnel, and a variety of assistant titles.

Medical assisting is a versatile, in-demand healthcare career where you interact with patients and positively affect the lives of other people. Medical assisting is a stepping stone to many other healthcare professions. On the other hand, **medical billers and coders** are investigators, hunting down patients' diagnoses based on lab procedures, signs and symptoms. Medical billing and coding technology is evolving at such a rapid rate, specialists now more than ever need excellent training. **Medical office personnel** perform medical secretarial procedures, medical terminology, coding and billing, word processing, and medical machine transcription.

MWCC offers an array of programs to prepare you for a medical office career (see page 13). "These are great careers. The demand for trained medical office support is growing. These jobs usually offer regular hours—something that is rare in the healthcare field," says Brenda Tatro, chair of the Medical Assisting, Medical Office, and Medical Coding & Billing programs.

What does a medical assistant do?

The main role of a **medical assistant** is to keep the medical office running smoothly by performing clinical and administrative tasks. The specific duties vary depending on the location and the size of office. Some administrative duties may include handling correspondence, greeting patients and filling out their medical records, as well as scheduling appointments and referring. Clinical duties can include preparing an examination room with the proper supplies, taking a patient's medical history, and minor medical tasks such as suturing and drawing blood.

Skills, learning and employment opportunities:

Most employers are interested in seeing medical assistant training on your resume, and strong organizational skills are needed. MWCC's Medical Assistant program prepares you to take a certifying exam at the program's completion. While certification is not required for medical assistants, it will boost your chances for employment if you are formally prepared.

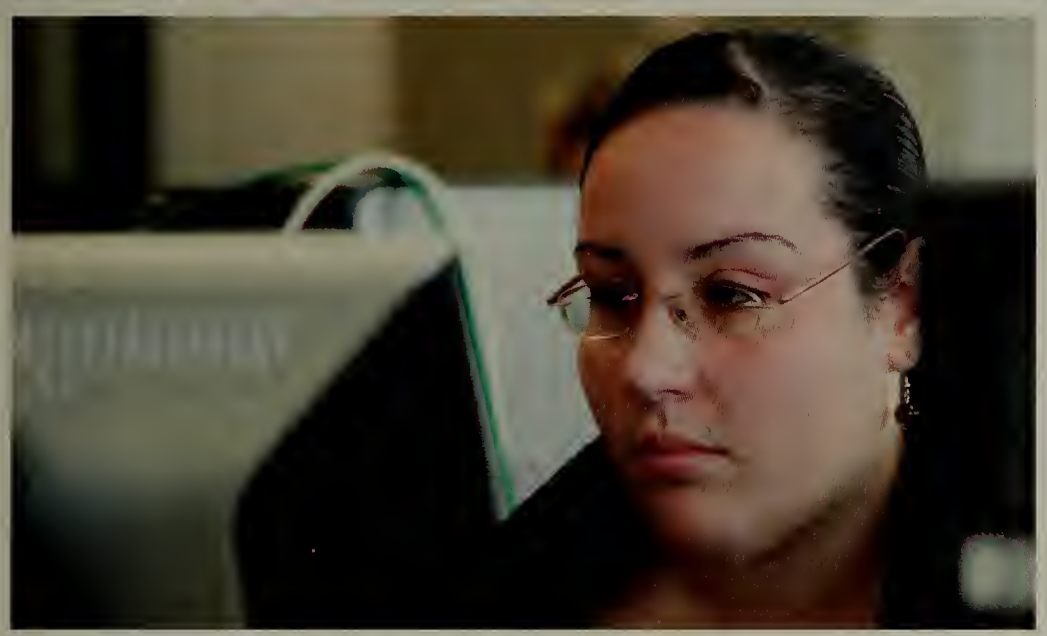
In MWCC's program, topics you will study include: anatomy; physiology; record keeping; medical terminology; administrative and accounting skills. You will also learn about laboratory techniques, diagnostic procedures and how to administer medications.

With appropriate training, there is greater opportunity in finding employment in a physician's office or hospital, clinical laboratories, nursing homes and in the offices of other health practitioners such as chiropractors and podiatrists. In larger offices, there may be opportunities for advancement into administrative management positions as well.

The medical assisting career is projected to grow 33.9 percent from 2008-2018. The earning potential of a medical assistant can range from $21,970 to $31,210 per year for full-time employment.

What does a medical coder do?

Procedurally, the primary role of a **medical coder** is to ensure accurate documentation of a patient's diagnosis, prescription or referral. Medical coding regulates the proper use of medical procedures and potentially protects patients from prescription conflicts. This is a critical responsibility in healthcare as a patient's medical history is



Complete Your Degree, Certificate, or Noncredit Program Through MWCC

Credit:

Courses are offered during the day and evening and at the Gardner and Devens Campuses. Go to http://www.mwcc.edu/programs/MA, or call (978) 630-9284 for more information.

- Medical Assisting Degree
- Medical Coding & Billing Certificate
- Medical Office Certificate

Noncredit:

These programs are offered entirely online. Go to www.careerstep.com for more info.

- Medical Transcription Editor
- Medical Transcription
- Inpatient and Outpatient Medical Coding & Billing
- Outpatient Medical Coding & Billing

Are you interested in healthcare? Realize your full potential with a medical office career.

important for consistent ongoing healthcare. Furthermore, proper medical coding procedures have the added purpose of ensuring correct patient billing and payment.

Skills, learning and employment opportunities:

Medical coders must be detailed oriented, have the ability to work well with numbers, and be comfortable working with computers and various types of medical coding and billing software programs. Although much of the job entails administrative tasks such as reviewing, processing, and submitting medical claims, some interpersonal skills are also necessary. Medical coders may be required to obtain additional information from a physician or other medical provider in the office, or may need to contact insurance companies regarding questions about claims.

MWCC's Medical Coding & Billing program will help you to gain a full understanding of medical records and its importance within any healthcare system. Correct interpretation of a physician's notes is obviously critical to your patient's well-being. Therefore, beyond administrative training, learning will include knowledge in the subjects of anatomy, medical terminology and human physiology.

From an employment perspective, medical coding positions are needed in every hospital, medical clinic, physician's office, nursing home or healthcare agency. Insurance companies that work with healthcare cases may also hire someone with medical coding experience, either on a contract basis or as a full-time employee, if the business is large enough. In hospitals and large agencies where more than one person is required for medical coding, there may be potential for advancement into supervisory or management positions. According to Payscale Salary Calculation, the average hourly rate for medical coders is $15, which equates to about $30,000 per year for a full-time employee.

What does a medical secretary do?

Medical secretaries provide administrative support in a medical office environment. A typical day for a medical secretary would include answering phone calls, scheduling appointments, greeting patients, completing insurance forms, helping patients complete intake forms, receiving laboratory results and routing them to appropriate staff, and maintaining medical files.

Skills, learning and employment opportunities:

MWCC has a Medical Office Certificate program where students learn medical secretarial procedures, medical terminology, coding and billing, word processing, and medical machine transcription. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job outlook for medical secretaries is excellent and this occupation is projected to grow through 2018. Medical secretaries earned median hourly wages of $14.27 and a median annual salary of $29,680 in 2008.

Accredited program

And as a final comment... be informed and make wise choices before investing in your career. Don't be fooled by other educational programs that don't meet the standards. The Medical Assisting Degree program at MWCC is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs (CAAHEP) and offers small classes and one-on-one contact with instructors and personal advisement to ensure your success. We mean it when we say, **"Start near... Go far at Mount Wachusett Community College!"**

Choosing a Medical Assisting Program. Some Things to Consider:

There are many medical assisting diploma and degree programs out there. Unfortunately, they are not all created equal. Choosing a program can be very confusing. Here are some things to consider:

Are they accredited?

Graduates with certification and a degree from an accredited college will have the best chances of employment. Many medical assisting programs are not accredited. However, MWCC's Medical Assisting Degree is accredited and students who complete the program are eligible to take the national Certified Medical Assistant Exam.

Are the credits transferable?

Many students graduate from a medical assisting program, only to find that when they want to continue their education, their credits won't transfer. This causes frustration for those who have paid thousands for these non-transferable credits. At MWCC, the general coursework you complete in the Medical Assisting program is transferable, and even some of the career-related courses may transfer as well, depending on the receiving college and program of study.

Stay on Track with Financial

Ensure that your college education stays on track by meeting financial aid deadlines.

January 1, 2011

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) available to complete online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. School code 002172.

March 10, 2011

MWCC scholarship application deadline. Applications available at http://www.mwcc.edu/PDFs/ScholarshipApplication.pdf.

April 1, 2011

Financial aid priority deadline. Financial aid files completed by this date will receive priority consideration when awarding aid programs that have limited funding.

May 1, 2011

MASSGrant FAFSA filing deadline. Applications completed after May 1 will not be considered for the Massachusetts' MASSGrant program.

July 1, 2011

Recommended financial aid file completion date to ensure availability of aid to meet the fall semester billing due date.

August 5, 2011

Student accounts billing due date. For those who have not paid their bill, and do not have financial aid funding secured, class schedules will be dropped by Aug. 12.

Financial Aid Deadlines
Fall 2011 Semester

Aid!
August 12, 2011
Student schedules dropped for non-payment. Schedules for financial aid applicants with all required paperwork submitted will be secured.
August 16, 2011
First day to begin using financial aid bookstore credit (awarded aid funds greater than billed costs) to help cover the cost of books at the MWCC bookstore.
September 6, 2011
Classes begin
October 17, 2011
First disbursement of financial aid to student accounts.

The financial aid office is located in room 169 (first floor) of the Gardner Campus.

Phone: (978) 630-9169

Fax: (978) 630-9459

Email: financialaid@mwcc.mass.edu

Events and Financial Aid Services:

FAFSA Filing Workshops – Workshops offered in February, March, and April to help families with filing the online FAFSA (no appointment necessary).

All workshops held at MWCC's Gardner Campus:

Fri., Mar. 18, 1 p.m.-3p.m., Room 240
Fri., Mar. 25, 1 p.m.-3p.m., Room 240
Sat., Apr. 16, 11 a.m-3p.m., Room 240
Tues., Apr. 26, 2011, 4p.m.- 6p.m., Room 240

Education Opportunity Center – One-on-one assistance with filing the online FAFSA (appointment required).

Office located at the Leominster Campus, 100 Erdman Way, with select appointments scheduled at the Gardner Campus

Phone: (978) 840-0176, ext. 107 – Call to set up an individual appointment.

Income Tax Service – IRS certified volunteers from Mount Wachusett Community College will be accepting appointments on select days in February, March, and April to provide free basic income tax return preparation for taxpayers who have limited or moderate incomes at the Gardner Campus (specific dates to be determined). This service is available to all income eligible people (those who would qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit).

Financial Aid in Easy Steps

- Complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov. It all starts with this step!
- Receive a confirmation letter from MWCC
- Complete all required paperwork and documentation
- Financial aid paperwork reviewed for completion
- Financial aid package developed
- Receive award notification by email
- Accept loan offers if needed—requires completion of online Master Promissory Note and Entrance Loan Counseling
- Receive bookstore credit notification if aid is greater than bill
- Aid is disbursed to student account
- Receive aid refund if aid is greater than bill and book charges
- Complete a new FAFSA form each year

Feature

Facts AND Finds

This recession has been coined the "man-cession" because of the massive job losses in the construction and manufacturing industries, which traditionally employ disproportionately high percentages of men ... The unemployment rate for women has fallen to 7.9 percent, compared with a steady 10 percent unemployment rate among men.

What a 9.7 Unemployment Rate Means, U.S. News and World Report www.usnews.com, Feb. 5, 2010

Money Still Isn't Everything

In his new book *Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us,* best-selling author Daniel Pink explains that money really doesn't motivate people to do their best work.

While we expect to be paid fairly for our work, it's not cash that drives us to excel. What most of us really want from our jobs is interesting work, and the freedom to explore, innovate and master our profession. We'd also like to get a little recognition for a job well done.

Although that may go against everything that we know about the workplace today, Pink explains that curiousity, inspiration and the desire to have a little fun with our work can provide more of an incentive than a big paycheck.

Drawing on research into human motivation, Pink concludes, "The secret to high performance and satisfaction—at work, at school, and at home—is the deeply human need to direct our own lives, to learn and create new things, and to do better by ourselves and our world."

Careers of Tomorrow

The future is always unknowable and unpredictable, but that never stops anyone from trying to see what lies ahead.

Experts everywhere attempt to predict what the jobs of the future will be so that we can prepare for them today. If you're going to invest time and money into preparing for a career, it would be nice to know where the opportunities are.

Today many prognosticators see a slow recovery for the economy, taking at least five years for the overall unemployment rate to fall below five percent. And they see a workforce that's strongly divided between well paying professional jobs and poor-paying service jobs.

Economic experts warn us that some of the good jobs of the past have disappeared and will never return. Jobs in manufacturing, construction and finance just aren't going to be as plentiful as they were in the past.

And they predict that many existing occupations will have to adapt to new trends. For example, social networking will transform public relations and marketing; alternative energy will create a new a niche in engineering; heathcare and finance will both put more emphasis on risk management; and technology will continue to change nearly everything it touches.

Looking even further into the future, some visionaries have predicted the new careers that will exist in 2030. Among the job titles your grandkids may hold: space pilot, vertical farmer, climate change reversal specialist, weather modification police and memory augmentation surgeon.

Read more at:

"Where The Jobs Will Be In This Decade" Jan. 4, 2010 www.npr.org

"Best Careers 2010" www.usnews.com

"Landing a Job of the Future Takes a Two-Track Mind" Dec. 28, 2009 online.wsj.com

"Even in a Recovery Some Jobs Won't Return" Jan. 12, 2010 online.wsj.com

"Jobs of 2030" www.fastcompany.com

MWCC Faculty Spotlight:

Lara Dowland,
Chair of MWCC's Biotechnology/ Biomanufacturing Department

"I've always had an interest in science," says Dr. Lara Dowland, chair of MWCC's Biotechnology/ Biomanufacturing department. "My father was a high school science teacher and I always did well in science in high school. When I decided to go to college, it was a natural choice for me to pick a science field."

After earning an undergraduate degree in chemistry from Plymouth State University in New Hampshire, her interest in the effects of medicine on the body led her to pursue a master's degree and Ph.D. in pharmacology and toxicology from West Virginia University. Dr. Dowland worked in the research and development department at a life science company in Keene, N.H. for six years, and also taught biology at Keene State College for two years before joining the faculty at MWCC in 2007.

"It really is the perfect combination for me to actually use my education background and also do a job that I love. I really enjoy teaching and seeing the students excited about biotechnology and the possibilities in science," she says.

For the upcoming spring semester, MWCC has scholarships available for students interested in earning a certificate or associate degree in this field.

"We're seeing a lot of career changers, as well as younger students coming right out of high school. The manufacturing side of biotechnology is still in its infancy stage, and this program is training students to fill those positions right from the time those positions are becoming available. That's one of the reasons the programs have been successful – the jobs are just starting to come about in the area, so students are hitting it at the right time."

-Janice O'Connor

Complete a course in two weeks **over winter break!**

Save time and money–take a course over winter break. Get a headstart on your education, or meet a requirement toward your degree or certificate program.

Courses offered:

- Intro to Drawing
- Computer Technologies
- Customer Relations
- Business Etiquette and Protocol
- Speech
- Topics in Math
- Human Growth & Development
- Intro to Psychology
- Intro to Sociology
- Intro to Theatre

Most courses run January 3 – January 14
A three credit course usually costs from $595-$625.

Home from college for winter break? **Take a course.**

1. Check with your registrar's office first to ensure that the course meets their requirements.
2. Complete the course.
3. Request a transcript from MWCC to transfer your credits back.

That's it!

www.mwcc.edu/spring2011

Enrollment Center
(978) 630-9110
admissions@mwcc.mass.edu

Seeking New Career Direction?

MWCC Can Help!

CAREER NIGHT

Wednesday, March 16 • 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. • Free

Topics include:

- The career exploration process
- How to prepare for a career
- Your personality type
- Careers related to your personality type
- How to prepare for those careers (job outlook, salaries, education level, colleges and transfer agreements)

Refreshments will be served following the career information session.

Please RSVP by Monday, March 14
by contacting Dawn Fontaine (978) 630-9568 or dfontaine@mwcc.mass.edu

Your New Life in Two Years or Less*

Deciding what you'd like to do with your life? MWCC has over 40 programs to choose from. Most associate degree programs can be completed in two years full-time and most certificates can be completed in as little as one year full-time.* Degrees and certificates can be completed part-time at whatever pace is right for you. If your goal is to earn a bachelor's degree, our transfer programs will get you halfway there (or more) - and at about half the cost.

Associate Degrees

Accounting Option**
Allied Health Concentration**
Art—Professional Track
Art—Traditional Program
Automotive Technology
Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing
Broadcasting & Electronic Media
Business Administration—Career
Business Administration—Transfer
Business Administration—Transfer *(accelerated format)*
Clinical Laboratory Science
Communications Concentration**
Complementary Health Care—Yoga Teacher Training
Computer Graphic Design—Print
Computer Graphic Design—Web Design
Computer Information Systems
Criminal Justice—Corrections
Criminal Justice—Law Enforcement
Dental Hygiene
Early Childhood Education—Career
Early Childhood Education—Transfer
Elementary Education Concentration**
Energy Management
Fire Science
Fitness Leadership & Exercise Science Concentration**
General Studies
History & Political Science Concentration**
Human Services
Liberal Arts
Liberal Studies
Manufacturing Technology—Plastics
Medical Assisting
Natural Resources
Nursing
Paralegal Studies
Physical Therapist Assistant
Pre-Engineering Track**
Theatre Arts Concentration**

Certificate Programs

Accounting
Allied Health
Automotive Technology
Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing
Business Administration
Complementary Health Care
Computer Graphic Design—Print
Computer Graphic Design—Web Design
Energy Management
Human Service Technician
IT Support Specialist
Law Enforcement
Medical Coding & Billing
Medical Office
Office Assistant
Paralegal
Practical Nurse
Professional Photography
Small Business Management

Other Options

3+1 Baccalaureate Degree Completion Option
Emergency Medical Technician Certificate of Completion
English as a Second Language Courses
Honors Program
Nurse Assistant Courses
Phlebotomy Certificate of Completion
Radiologic Technologist Articulation Agreement

* Programs may take slightly longer for those in selective enrollment programs, or for those requiring developmental coursework.

** Denotes a concentration of an associate degree

Mount Wachusett Community College

www.mwcc.edu/spring2011

Spring Classes Start January 19!

Start near . . . Go far

(978) 630-9284 www.mwcc.edu/spring2011 AA/EEO Institution